CLAIMS

1. A moving image management apparatus for management of plural moving images recorded on a storage medium in
5 correspondence with one or plural representative images, comprising:

means for recording a representative image representing an arbitrary section or the whole of a moving image;

10   means for recording information indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by said representative image in correspondence with said representative image; and

means for recording information indicating a
15 position of an image as a base of said representative image in correspondence with said representative image,

wherein in case of said representative image is designated by a user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the
20 representative image is selected.

2. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for recording information indicating a
25 purpose of said representative image as attribute information in correspondence with said representative image; and

means for selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information.

5   3.   The moving image management apparatus according to claim 2, when said representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image is selected, and a function

10   corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image.

4.   The moving image management apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

15   means for recording information indicating a purpose of said representative image as attribute information; and

       means for classifying only said representative image for each purpose based on said attribute

20   information.

5.   The moving image management apparatus according to claim 4, wherein when said representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the

25   section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected

section or the whole of the moving image.

6. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 2, wherein when said information indicating the

5   section or the whole of the moving image represented by said representative image and said attribute information are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular continuous portion.

10   7. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 6, wherein when said information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image and said representative image are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative

15   image in a particular portion.

8. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said particular portion is a continuous area on the storage medium.

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9. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 7 or 8, wherein only significant information of said information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image and said

25   representative image is recorded in a portion for easy storage and access.

10. The moving image management apparatus according to any one of claims 2 to 9, wherein in said means for recording information indicating a purpose of said representative image as attribute information, said
5 attribute information is an identification number previously defined for purpose.

11. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said means for selecting only said
10 representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information selects a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to a browsing operation,

and wherein said apparatus has display means for
15 displaying the representative image,

further wherein application of function corresponding to the purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image is reproduction means for, when a desired representative image is designated from
20 representative images displayed by said display means, reproducing a corresponding moving image based on section information added to the representative image.

12. The moving image management apparatus according to
25 claim 2, wherein if an editing range is designated in a desired moving image, said means for selecting only said representative image corresponding to said purpose based

on said attribute information selects a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to an editing operation and within the editing range,

and wherein said apparatus has display means for
5   displaying the representative image within said editing range.

13.   The moving image management apparatus according to claim 3, wherein in a print operation to print a desired
10   frame in a desired moving image, said means for selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information selects a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to the print operation from
15   representative images corresponding to said desired moving image,

and wherein said apparatus has display means for displaying the representative image having said attribute information corresponding to the print
20   operation,

further wherein application of function corresponding to a designated purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image when a desired representative image is designated from representative
25   images displayed by said display means, is output means for, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display

means, referring to the information indicating a
position of an image as a base of said representative
image, and outputting a desired frame for print output.

5   14. A moving image management apparatus for management
of plural moving images recorded on a storage medium in
correspondence with one or plural representative images,
comprising:

       generation means for generating a representative
10   image representing an arbitrary section or the whole of
a moving image;

       first recording means for recording information
indicating the section or the whole of the moving image
represented by said representative image in
15   correspondence with said representative image; and

       second recording means for recording information
indicating a position of an image as a base of said
representative image in correspondence with said
representative image.

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15. The moving image management apparatus according to
claim 14, further comprising:

       adding means for adding information indicating a
purpose of said representative image as attribute
25   information;

       means for recording said attribute information
added by said adding means in correspondence with said

representative image; and

means for selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information.

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16. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when said representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by

10 the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image.

17. The moving image management apparatus according to

15 claim 14, further comprising:

adding means for adding information indicating a purpose of said representative image as attribute information;

means for recording the attribute information

20 added by said adding means in correspondence with said representative image; and

means for classifying only said representative image for each purpose based on said attribute information.

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18. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 17, wherein when said representative image is

designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected

5   section or the whole of the moving image.

19.   The moving image management apparatus according to claim 15, wherein when said information indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by

10   said representative image and said attribute information are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular continuous portion.

20.   The moving image management apparatus according to

15   claim 19, wherein when said information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image and said representative image are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular portion.

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21.   The moving image management apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said particular portion is a continuous area on the storage medium.

25   22.   The moving image management apparatus according to claim 20 or 21, wherein only significant information of said information indicating a position of an image as a

base of said representative image and said representative image is recorded in a portion for easily storage and access.

5   23.   The moving image management apparatus according to any one of claims 15 to 22, wherein in said means for recording information indicating a purpose of said representative image as attribute information, said attribute information is an identification number

10   previously defined for purpose.

24.   The moving image management apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said means for selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based

15   on said attribute information selects a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to a browsing operation,

and wherein said apparatus has display means for displaying the representative image,

20   further wherein application of function corresponding to the purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image is reproduction means for, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display means,

25   reproducing a corresponding moving image based on section information added to the representative image.

25. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 15, wherein if an editing range is designated in a desired moving image, said means for selecting only said representative image corresponding to said purpose based

5   on said attribute information selects a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to an editing operation and within the editing range,

and wherein said apparatus has display means for displaying the representative image within said editing

10   range.

26. The moving image management apparatus according to claim 16, wherein in a print operation to print a desired frame in a desired moving image, said means for

15   selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information selects a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to the print operation from representative images corresponding to said desired

20   moving image,

and wherein said apparatus has display means for displaying the representative image having said attribute information corresponding to the print operation,

25   further wherein application of function corresponding to a designated purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image when a desired

representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display means, is output means for, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed by said display

5   means, referring to the information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image, and outputting a desired frame for print output.

27. A moving image management method for management of
10 plural moving images recorded on a storage medium in correspondence with one or plural representative images, comprising:

a step of recording a representative image representing an arbitrary section or the whole of a
15 moving image;

a step of recording information indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by said representative image in correspondence with said representative image; and

20   a step of recording information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image in correspondence with said representative image,

wherein in case of said representative image is designated by a user, it is interpreted that the section
25 or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image is selected.

28. The moving image management method according to claim 27, further comprising:

a step of recording information indicating a purpose of said representative image as attribute

5   information in correspondence with said representative image; and

a step of selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information.

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29. The moving image management method according to claim 28, when said representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the

15   representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image.

30. The moving image management method according to

20   claim 27, further comprising:

a step of recording information indicating a purpose of said representative image as attribute information; and

a step of classifying only said representative

25   image for each purpose based on said attribute information.

31. The moving image management method according to
claim 30, wherein when said representative image is
designated by the user, it is interpreted that the
section or the whole of the moving image represented by
5   the representative image is selected, and a function
corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected
section or the whole of the moving image.

32. The moving image management method according to
10   claim 28, wherein when said information indicating the
section or the whole of the moving image represented by
said representative image and said attribute information
are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by
representative image in a particular continuous portion.
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33. The moving image management method according to
claim 32, wherein when said information indicating a
position of an image as a base of said representative
image and said representative image are recorded on the
20   storage medium, they are recorded by representative
image in a particular portion.

34. The moving image management method according to
claim 33, wherein said particular portion is a
25   continuous area on the storage medium.

35. The moving image management method according to

claim 33 or 34, wherein only significant information of said information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image and said representative image is recorded in a portion for easily

5   storage and access.

36.   The moving image management method according to any one of claims 28 to 35, wherein at said step of recording information indicating a purpose of said

10   representative image as attribute information, said attribute information is an identification number previously defined for purpose.

37.   The moving image management method according to

15   claim 29, wherein at said step of selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information, a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to a browsing operation is selected,

20   and wherein said method has a display step of displaying the representative image,

further wherein application of function corresponding to the purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image is a reproduction step of,

25   when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed at said display step, reproducing a corresponding moving image based on

section information added to the representative image.

38. The moving image management method according to claim 28, wherein if an editing range is designated in a desired moving image, said step of selecting only said representative image corresponding to said purpose based on said attribute information, a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to an editing operation and within the editing range is selected,

and wherein said method has a display step of displaying the representative image within said editing range.

39. The moving image management method according to claim 29, wherein in a print operation to print a desired frame in a desired moving image, at said step of selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information, a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to the print operation is selected from representative images corresponding to said desired moving image,

and wherein said method has a display step of displaying the representative image having said attribute information corresponding to the print operation,

further wherein application of function corresponding to a designated purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image when a desired representative image is designated from representative

5   images displayed at said display step is an output step of, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed at said display step, referring to the information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image, and

10   outputting a desired frame for print output.

40. A moving image management method for management of plural moving images recorded on a storage medium in correspondence with one or plural representative images,

15   comprising:

a generation step of generating a representative image representing an arbitrary section or the whole of a moving image;

a first recording step of recording information

20   indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by said representative image in correspondence with said representative image; and

a second recording step of recording information indicating a position of an image as a base of said

25   representative image in correspondence with said representative image.

41. The moving image management method according to claim 40, further comprising:

an adding step of adding information indicating a purpose of said representative image as attribute

5 information;

a step of recording said attribute information added at said adding step in correspondence with said representative image; and

a step of selecting only said representative image

10 corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information.

42. The moving image management method according to claim 41, wherein when said representative image is

15 designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image.

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43. The moving image management method according to claim 40, further comprising:

an adding step of adding information indicating a purpose of said representative image as attribute

25 information;

a step of recording the attribute information added by said adding means in correspondence with said

representative image; and

a step of classifying only said representative image for each purpose based on said attribute information.

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44. The moving image management method according to claim 43, wherein when said representative image is designated by the user, it is interpreted that the section or the whole of the moving image represented by

10 the representative image is selected, and a function corresponding to the purpose is applied to the selected section or the whole of the moving image.

45. The moving image management method according to

15 claim 15, wherein when said information indicating the section or the whole of the moving image represented by said representative image and said attribute information are recorded on the storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular continuous portion.

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46. The moving image management method according to claim 45, wherein when said information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image and said representative image are recorded on the

25 storage medium, they are recorded by representative image in a particular portion.

47. The moving image management method according to claim 46, wherein said particular portion is a continuous area on the storage medium.

5   48. The moving image management method according to claim 46 or 47, wherein only significant information of said information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image and said representative image is recorded in a portion for easily

10 storage and access.

49. The moving image management method according to any one of claims 41 to 48, wherein at said step of recording information indicating a purpose of said

15 representative image as attribute information, said attribute information is an identification number previously defined for purpose.

50. The moving image management method according to

20 claim 42, wherein at said step of selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information, a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to a browsing operation is selected,

25   and said method has a display step of displaying the representative image,

      further wherein application of function

corresponding to the purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image is a reproduction step of, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed at said display step,

5   reproducing a corresponding moving image based on section information added to the representative image.

51. The moving image management method according to claim 41, wherein if an editing range is designated in a

10   desired moving image, at said step of selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information, a representative image having said attribute information corresponding to an editing operation and within the editing range is

15   selected,

and wherein said method has a display step of displaying the representative image within said editing range.

20   52. The moving image management method according to claim 42, wherein in a print operation to print a desired frame in a desired moving image, at said step of selecting only said representative image corresponding to the purpose based on said attribute information, a

25   representative image having said attribute information corresponding to the print operation is selected from representative images corresponding to said desired

moving image,

and wherein said method has a display step of displaying the representative image having said attribute information corresponding to the print

5   operation,

further wherein application of function corresponding to a designated purpose to the selected section or the whole of the moving image when a desired representative image is designated from representative

10 images displayed at said display step, is an output step for, when a desired representative image is designated from representative images displayed at said display step, referring to the information indicating a position of an image as a base of said representative image, and

15 outputting a desired frame for print output.

53. A storage medium holding a control program for executing the moving image management method according to any one of claims 19 to 36 by a computer.

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54. A control program for executing the moving image management method according to any one of claims 19 to 36 by a computer.